1) (currently amended) A court standard which is stored wholly beneath and lifted upwardly to above a gymnasium floor for use comprising:

a contained tube;

an embedded upright floor tube having a top end portion which is nominally in alignment with the gymnasium floor, said embedded floor tube closely surrounding and having sufficient internal capacity to slidably house the contained tube wholly below the floor; [and,]

a releasable lock means to maintain the contained tube at a selected height above the floor; and,

a retraction shock absorbing means to cushion the contained tube upon retraction;

so that the entire court standard is stored beneath the gymnasium floor when not in use and the contained tube need only conveniently be lifted directly up from beneath the gymnasium floor to an in use position.

2) (original) A court standard as in claim 1 wherein the [releasable lock means comprises a split ring adapted to engage to maintain the net at one of multiple heights, said height selected for a game being played] retraction shock absorbing means comprises a pad positioned within a bottom portion of the floor tube.

3) (amended) A court standard as in claim 1 wherein the contained tube comprises a plurality of contained tubes, each contained tube closely and slidably positioned within a tube therearound, said plurality of tubes facilitating erection because initially one's finger need

only lift the weight of a smallest contained tube from beneath the gymnasium floor.

4) (currently amended) A court standard as in claim 3 further comprising [a shock absorbing pad positioned within a bottom portion of the floor tube to cushion the contained tube upon retraction, and] a floor cover having a movable and attached plate.

5) (currently amended) A court standard [as in claim 3] which is stored wholly beneath and lifted upwardly to above a gymnasium floor for use comprising:

a contained tube;

an embedded upright floor tube having a top end portion which is nominally in alignment with the gymnasium floor, said embedded floor tube closely surrounding and having sufficient internal capacity to slidably house the contained tube wholly below the floor;

a releasable lock means to maintain the contained tube at a selected height above the floor;

wherein a top portion of the floor tube and each contained tube have an annular inner stop [portion] member, and wherein a lower portion of each contained tube has an annular outer guide portion having a thickness comparable to the inner stop member, said outer guide portion coming into contact with a respective stop member when the contained tube is fully upwardly extended;

so that the entire court standard is stored beneath the gymnasium floor when not in use and the contained tube need only conveniently be lifted directly up from beneath the

gymnasium floor to an in use position.

6) (original) A court standard as in claim 5 further comprising a top and inner most cylindrical member having a lower end portion having an annular outer guide portion and an upper portion adapted for reception of the net.

7) (original) A court standard as in claim [1] 5 further comprising a winch which is releasably attachable to a contained tube and wherein the top and inner most cylindrical member further comprises a top pulley so that a net cable may be drawn over the pulley and tightened with the winch.

8) (original) A court standard as in claim [3] 5 further comprising a biased rocker latch configured so that when the contained tube is fully elevated the latch will engage.

9) (original) A court standard as in claim 8 wherein there are two opposite rocker latches so that the latches may be squeezed together for release, and wherein each rocker latch pivots on a pin in an upwardly elongate hole so that the weight carried by the contained tube is partially carried by the rocker latch rather than entirely by the pin.

10) (currently amended) A court standard as in claim [3 wherein the inner members further] 1 wherein the retraction shock absorbing means comprises the inner members having a peripheral seal to trap air within the inner tubes to result in an air cushioned

retraction of the court standard.

11) (currently amended) A method of storing a court standard wholly beneath a gymnasium floor and then conveniently erecting the court standard comprising the following steps:

providing a court standard having i) a contained tube, ii) an embedded upright floor tube having a top end portion which is nominally in alignment with the gymnasium floor, said embedded floor tube closely surrounding and having sufficient internal capacity to slidably house the contained tube wholly below the floor; and, iii) releasable lock means to maintain the contained tube at a selected height above the floor;

elevating the contained tube to a desired height;

releasably locking the contained tube at the selected height above the floor by using a biased latch configured so that when the contained tube is fully elevated the latch will engage; and,

attaching the net to the court standard;

thereby avoiding the task of carrying the court standard from storage to and across the gymnasium floor.

12) (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein the court standard further comprises a lockable split ring adapted to engage around the top and inner most cylindrical member to maintain the net at one of multiple heights, said height selected for a game being played and wherein the method further comprises the step of locking the split ring at a mark on the

cylindrical member to maintain the net at a selected height.

13) (currently amended) A method as in claim [12] 11 wherein the contained tube comprises a plurality of contained tubes, each contained tube closely and slidably positioned within a tube therearound, said plurality of small tubes facilitating erection because initially one's finger need only lift the weight of a smallest contained tube from beneath the gymnasium floor.

14) (original) A method as in claim 13 further comprising the step of lifting an attached floor cover to access the retracted court standard.

15) (currently amended) A method as in claim [14] 11 wherein a top portion of the floor tube in the court standard and each contained tube therein has an annular inner stop portion and wherein a lower portion of each contained tube has an annular outer guide portion having a thickness comparable to the inner stop member, said outer guide portion coming into contact with a respective stop member when the contained tube is fully extended.

16) (original) A method as in claim 15 wherein the court standard further comprises a top and inner most cylindrical member having a lower end portion having an annular outer guide portion and an upper portion adapted for reception of the net.

17) (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein the court stand further comprises a

winch which is releasably attachable to a contained tube and wherein the top and inner most cylindrical member further comprises a top pulley so that a net cable may be drawn over the pulley and tightened with the winch and wherein the method further comprises the steps of attaching the winch to the court standard, stringing the net over the pulley, and tightening the net with the winch.

18) (currently amended) A method as in claim [13] 11 wherein the [court standard further comprises] biased latch is a biased rocker latch [configured so that when the contained tube is fully elevated the latch will engage].

19) (original) A method as in claim 18 wherein the court standard has two opposite rocker latches so that the latches may be squeezed together for release and wherein each rocker latch pivots on a pin in an elliptical hole so that the weight carried by the contained tube is partially carried by the rocker latch rather than entirely by the pin.

20) (original) A method as in claim 13 wherein the contained in the court standard further comprise a peripheral seal to trap air within the inner tubes to result in an air cushioned retraction of the court standard.